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Message Text

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63
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-10 SCI-06 HEW-08 DOTE-00

INT-08 HUD-02 DODE-00 CEQ-02 EB-11 IO-15 CIAE-00

PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EPA-04 COME-00 DRC-01

/167 W
---------- 089819
R 121734Z OCT 73
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8016
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
EC BRUSSELS 561
OECD PARIS 235

UNCLAS BONN 14847

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: NATO, SENV

SUBJECT: CCMS: INTERNATIONAL RESOLUTION ON ROAD SAFETY

REF: (A) STATE 185344, (B) BONN 14527

1. EMBASSY MADE A DETAILED WRITTEN PRESENTATION OF U.S. VIEWS ON THE ROAD SAFETY RESOLUTION TO MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT (FMT) ASSISTANT SECRETARY HELDMANN. WE HAVE NOW RECEIVED A TELEXED RESPONSE FROM THE FMT AS FOLLOWS: QUOTE WITH REFERENCE TO YOUR LETTER OF SEPTEMBER 26, 1973, I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY WILL WISH BE BE SHOWN AS HAVING A RESERVATION WITH RESPECT TO PARAGRAPH 1(B) OF THE DRAFT RESOLUTION ATTACHED TO YOUR LETTER, SINCE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC CONSIDERS THE STATEMENT OF A PERCENTAGE FIGURE FOR IMPROVEMENT OF TRAFFIC SAFETY AS NOT HELPFUL. UNQUOTE
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2. OUR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH JUNGBLUT INDICATE THAT THE ABOVE REFLECTS A HIGH LEVEL FMT DECISION THAT IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO PUBLICALLY COMMIT THE GOVERNMENT TO A QUANTITATIVE GOAL FOR TRAFFIC DEATH REDUCTION. SENIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS ARE RESONABLY CONVINCED THAT GERMANY WOULD BE UNABLE TO ATTAIN ANYTHING LIKE A QT PERCENT REDUCTION IN ROAD FATALITIES OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. IN THEIR VIEW. THE SETTING OF A GOAL WHICH IS UNLIKELY TO BE MET WOULD SERVE NO PURPOSE AND COULD EVENTUALLY EXPOSE THE MINISTRY TO CONSIDERABLE PUBLIC CRITICISM.

3. IN CHECKING BACK WITH THE FMT AFTER RECEIPT OF THE ABOVE TELEX WE WERE TOLD THAT THE MINISTRY SUPPORTS THE RESOLUTION IN ALL OTHER REPECTS AND BELIEVES THE FRG WOULD VERY LIKELY BE WILLING TO ACT AS A CO-SPONSER AT THE FORTHCOMING CCMS PLENARY. OUR FMT CONTACTS DID NOT MENTION ANY FRG INTENTION TO SUBMIT A SUGGESTED AMENDMENT TO THE RESOLUTION; HOWEVER, REMARKS MADE BY INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL TO EMBASSY SCIENTIFIC ATTACHE DURING DISCUSSION OF FRG VIEWS ON PLENARY (REPORTED REFTEL) INDICATED A GERMAN DRAFT AMENDEMTN TO ELIMINATE THE 15 PERCENT GOAL MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING. SINCE FRG POSIBITION RE ALL TOPICS RELATING TO THE CCMS PLENARY IS OBVIOUSLY IN THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPMENT WITH INTERIOR MINISTRY ACTING AS COORDINATOR, WE SEE LITTLE TO BE GAINED BY CONTINUING DISCUSSIONS WITH FMT ON THE RESOLUTION. WE WILL FOLLOW SITUATION CLOSELY AND REPORT AS SOON AS FINAL FRG POSITION ON THE SUBJECT IS FORMULATED.
HILLENBRAND

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